Did you know?

First programme

4th section: Music

Lana del Rey, pop music and poetry.

Introductory music: Lana del Rey's Norman Fucking Rockwell plays introducing the section. (20 seconds). Fade out under voice.

Esther: Hello there! I'm Esther and in this section, I'm going to talk about poetry

FX: BOOING

Esther: But! About poetry in music.

FX: APPLAUSE AND CHEERING

Esther: Specifically, I'm going to talk about Lana del Rey, and how her music isn't simply commercial pop music but art. Firstly, her characteristic, nostalgic and kinda dark-ish sound makes you dive deep into the music. She projects everything that he has to say through slow-paced, melancholia-filled melodies that her smoky, seductive voice complement to perfection.

FX: LANA DEL REY'S INSTRUMENTAL VERSION OF WEST COAST FADE IN WITH VOICE AND LINKS THE NEXT SPOKEN PART

Esther: Her lyrics address a wide range of issues, from love to critics to capitalism and her home country, the United States. Her love lyrics aren't typical either, as it's known that her first love songs were written for her first love: alcohol.

FX: GLASSES CLINKING

Esther: She often mentions that when she wrote melancholic love songs, she was really talking about her alcohol addiction, the first thing she had to say goodbye to. One of the songs that most clearly talk about this is *This is what makes us girls*, where she talks about her early youth and finishes the song by telling how she had to say goodbye to her friends and past life to go to a boarding school to overcome her drinking problem. *****

FX: LANA DEL REY'S THIS IS WHAT MAKES US GIRLS PLAYS UNDERNEATH THE VOICE*

Esther: Another one of her most recurring motifs is the ocean, most specifically, the beach. The truth is, she isn't really comfortable with fame and has many songs that talk about it. The beach is the place where she feels most comfortable, where she spends her alone time. In some songs, she uses the beach as a metaphor for her freedom, whilst in others, she tells real stories like 13 beaches, in which the first sentence is "It took 13 beaches to find one empty". This really happened, as she had to visit 13 beaches to finally find one where there wasn't any paparazzi.

FX: LANA DEL REY'S HIGH BY THE BEACH PLAYS UNDERNEATH THE VOICE

Esther: She has a lot more themes that she mentions during almost every part of her career. For example, a lot of her songs reference America, and with her, this concept has matured. Before, her lyrics showed somehow proudness of her origins (for example, on *National Anthem*). But it wasn't typical patriotism but nostalgia for the old, gold American times, and its culture. Now, as her lyrics have evolved, she criticizes the American music industry, the current pop culture and how her country is getting worse with time. She no longers romanticizes the lost years, but mourns for the growth that never comes. Another theme is abusive relationships and emotional dependence. She talks about a lot of her lovers and how her already bad mental health deteriorated with them. One of the few songs where she talks about herself without having to exemplify her problems through relationships is *hope is a dangerous thing for a woman like me to have - but I have it*, a masterpiece, and a fully retrospective song about herself, her demons and how she has matured.

FX: LANA DEL REY'S THE GREATEST PLAYS UNDERNEATH THE VOICE

Esther: So, with so many recurring motifs and metaphors, we could consider her lyrics authentic poetry, and treat them as such.

FX: LANA DEL REY'S LOVE IS A DANGEROUS THING FOR A WOMAN LIKE ME TO HAVE - BUT I HAVE IT PLAYS AND FADES OUT AT THE END

Esther: And, with the last song I mentioned, *hope is a dangerous thing for a woman like me to have - but I have it,* I finish this section. I hope you enjoyed it and found it interesting. Thank you for listening and see you all!